

Beth A. Bennett

721 East Morris Street
Indianapolis, IN 46203
317-639-1739

- Objective:** My goal is always to create fashion that is thought provoking, beautiful and marketable. I strive to keep a balance between creative self-fulfillment, and the expectations of my client. I desire to teach others; passing on knowledge and craft in design and the sewing trades.
- Education:** M.F.A. in design- New York University, Tisch School of the Arts 1996
B.F.A. in design- DePaul University, Chicago 1992
North Putnam High School, Roachdale IN 1988
- Employment:** **B Trousseau Couture, owner and designer** Aug. 2007 - present
This business caters to a client who wants custom made clothing that is non- traditional, one of a kind, and of excellent quality. The emphasis is on bridal and special occasion fashion design, and I work within true couture dressmaking methods. I also freelance as a pattern and sample maker for other companies, primarily those that produce children's wear.
- Art Institute of Indianapolis, adjunct instructor** June 2009 – present
I currently teach Fundamentals of Construction, which is a beginning level class for sewing for the fashion industry. Also Draping 1, which introduces students to the initial sculptural aspects of creating a garment.
- Indiana Repertory Theatre, first hand** Aug. 2001 – May 2007
In this professional theatre's costume shop, I performed duties which included: cutting patterns in the fashion fabric, creating patterns, supervising the construction of garments, instructing seamstresses on the process of sewing, fabric preparation, assisting in fitting of actors, and doing some of the more difficult or intricate sewing tasks.
- Avant Garb, part-time craft artisan** 2001 - present
This leading national company creates corporate characters and athletic mascots. I create patterns, sew, and fabricate costume pieces and soft sculpture to the requirements of the designer and client.
- Opulent Creations, design assistant and pattern maker** 1999 - 2001
This small custom bridal company in Atlanta, GA is where I realized my passion for creating one-of-kind bridal fashion. My responsibilities ranged from draping and pattern making, to assisting the designer, Christina Sands in the development of hand made designs for clients.
- Design assistant to Gregg Barnes** 1995 - 1999
Over the span of four years, I worked with this Tony Award winning designer on theatrical productions that ranged from 'Sideshow the Musical' on Broadway, to three seasons of large scale plays and musicals for Papermill Playhouse in New Jersey. Duties included sourcing, book keeping, scheduling and fitting.

Freelance costume designer 1992 – 2010

I spent the early years of my design career singularly focused as a costume designer in the major theatre markets of Chicago, New York, and Atlanta GA, creating designs for plays, dance, musicals, and children's theatre.

Most recently I designed costumes for Indiana Repertory Theatre's 2009 production of Love Letters.

Related Experience:

Fashion Shows 2008

My design work has been included in several fashion shows: 2009 Midwest Fashion Week – spring collections, Project IMA - an event created by the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and Fibr(a) an event created by Alchemy art and aesthetics.

Graduate Assisant 1991-1992

At New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, I fulfilled the duties of graduate assistant in the costume shop. I taught sewing skills to undergraduates with varying degrees of skills, supervised the crew work calls to accomplish show and fitting notes, maintained the costume shop orderliness, and created garments for the student designed productions.

Sewing skills instructor, Cherubs Program 1990

I participated in Northwestern University's Cherubs summer theatre program for high school students. At this camp, the students create theatrical productions and learn the skills of technical theatre.

Skills:

fashion design, costume design, sketching, figure drawing, couture draping, flat patterning, advanced sewing and tailoring, use of domestic and industrial sewing machines and sergers, millinery, hand sewing, fitting and alteration techniques, fabric preparation and manipulation, dyeing, fabric painting, fabric and supply sourcing and shopping.

References:

Christina Sands	770-908-1010
Former employer and mentor. Owner and designer, Opulent Creations	
Jennifer Smith	800-636-9562
Current employer. Owner and designer, Avant Garb	
Catherine Fritsch	765- 480-7799
Peer. Owner and designer, Mercurious Designs	
Susan Hilferty	212-998-1800
Arts professor and chair of design, Tisch School of the Arts	
Maggie Raywood	212-998-1800
Associate arts professor and costume shop manager, Tisch School of the Arts	

*please reference Ms. Hilferty and Ms. Raywood with my maiden name: Beth Lasley